

Board of Trustees is a testament to his character and devotion to all the families in Kern County who have sent their children to Kern high schools. Fred Starrh served us all well by watching over the myriad issues that come before those entrusted with the management of the education provided to our kids during the critically important four years of high school study.

I know people from all over the United States who rely on Fred Starrh's advice and counsel. Fred has friends everywhere, and years of working together make me honored to be included among them. Few people are as dedicated and as much fun to work with as we all know Fred Starrh to be.

RECOGNITION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize national and local efforts in vocational education and career preparation training. I commend the American Vocational Association for designating February 14–20, as Vocational Education Week. The over 14 million students and 26,000 institutions that are dedicated to betterment through career education deserve our recognition and support throughout the year.

Regional occupation programs in my district and throughout the country provide students with stronger skills and increased learning opportunities. They enhance both the education and employment prospects of our young people and help build a strong, well-trained workforce.

Vocational education makes a proven difference in lives of students who might not otherwise have access to targeted education and skills training. It opens doors to opportunities for productive futures. I am proud of the work done in my community, and I would like to recognize the hard-working students and dedicated staff in the Inland Empire who make vocational education a success. They are to be commended for their role in strengthening both individual lives and our community as a whole.

SALINAS VALLEY MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM—HELP- ING TO LEAD CHINA TO BETTER HEALTH CARE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform you and all our House colleagues of the magnificent contributions to international health care by the Salinas Valley Memorial Health Care System (SVMH). Through the efforts of SVMH, two cities in China, Kunming in the Province of Yunnan, and Chengdu in the Province of Sichuan, will receive the best in advanced medical training services and the best high-tech equipment to better serve the Health care needs of the Chinese people.

SVMH has long been on the cutting edge of technology in Health care services. Located in Salinas in my Central California Coast district, SVMH has developed state-of-the-art heart and cardiac health services. It works in tandem with NASA in using high-resolution equipment to uncover the secrets of the human health system. It also has established a long-term Health care facility for senior care that scores high marks by the health care industry.

Because of SVMH's expertise and experience, it has reached out to the international community to help. China, with the largest population on earth and yet some of the most remote and underserved populations, was a key target for assistance. Partnering with Assist International Rotary International Marquette Medical Services, SVMH will send a team of doctors and professional staff to Chengdu, China and Kunming, China today. This international team of hope will—

Donate and install \$1 million worth of high-tech medical equipment in the Yunnan Red Cross Hospital in Kunming and The First Medical School, The First University Hospital, West China University of Medical Sciences in Chengdu;

Educate and train the medical staff of both hospitals on the latest technologies and practices utilized by our physicians in the treatment of heart-related illnesses and procedures;

Interact with the citizenry of the community in order to demonstrate American willingness to share high tech medical information and technology.

This partnership, Mr. Speaker, is important for a number of reasons. First, it is critical to recognize that despite all other political machinations between the U.S. and China, there is one very important issue upon which leaders of both countries agree: that Health care is essential to quality of life. In that regard, SVMH, the Rotary International, Assist International and Marquette Medical Services have served as ambassadors extraordinaire to unify our two countries.

Second, this partnership is important because through the efforts of SVMH and others, we are establishing a firm working relationship with our Chinese counterparts—one that will indirectly benefit the relationship between the U.S. and China, but that will also directly benefit the Chinese people through the delivery of more and better Health care services. In this regard, the Yunnan Red Cross Hospital and the West China University of Medical Sciences deserve special recognition and praise for their commitment to improve Health care practices and their dedication to the pursuit of new knowledge in the field of medicine.

Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House, I urge you today to stand in honor of the Salinas Valley Memorial Health Care System and their partners in international Health care, the Yunnan Red Cross Hospital, the West China University of Medical Sciences, Assist International, Rotary International and Marquette Medical Services. They deserve our praise, they deserve our support and most of all, they deserve the chance to make this partnership a success so people can live well.

TRIBUTE TO BOB LIVINGSTON, REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE FIRST DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a colleague who has built a fine legacy of accomplishment as an adept and effective legislator—and leader—of this institution in which we all are honored to serve. BOB LIVINGSTON's leaving leaves a void that is not easily filled, as his colleagues from Louisiana have attested tonight. I wish BOB and Bonnie all the best as they embark on their new life, and am certain that BOB will continue to contribute to the public interest in the future.

BOB, you will definitely be missed here, and as you leave Congress, you should take pride in your record of accomplishment for the State of Louisiana and the Nation. Good luck to you.

LACKAWANNA VALLEY HERITAGE AREA ACT

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Area Act. By designating the Lackawanna Valley of Pennsylvania as a National Heritage Area, this important legislation would ensure the conservation of its significant natural, historic and cultural resources. The Lackawanna Valley was the first heritage area designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and is a nationally significant historic area as documented in the U.S. Department of Interior's Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Submittal of the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (1996).

For every federal dollar provided over the last decade, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority—which oversees the Valley's historical and cultural resources—has leveraged ten dollars in State, local and private sector funds to finance preservation activities. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority would continue to foster these important relationships with all levels of government, the private sector and local communities.

The Valley represents the development of anthracite coal, one of North America's greatest natural resources. From early in the 19th century, Pennsylvania's coal provided an extraordinary source of energy which fueled America's economic growth for over a hundred years. At the center of the world's most productive anthracite field, the Lackawanna Valley witnessed the inception, spectacular growth and eventual deterioration of an industry which led us to unparalleled prosperity.

The Valley's current mix of ethnicity, its combination of dense urban areas and isolated settlements, and the desolate remains of coal mines surrounded by beautiful countryside are a microcosm of our legacy from the industrial revolution. As these contrasts illustrate, the industrial era was not without human